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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Air Maneuvers in the Caucasus

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1. Air forces based on the following airfields took part in maneuvers beginning 3 Nov 53 and ending fifteen days later:

> Pskhou (north of Sohoum) Romanouskaya (northeast of Dahkousku) Khouberidjala (southwest of Mt. El'Brus) Vani (northeast of Kutais) Kodory (east of Poti) Khani (north of Akhaltsikhe)

- 2. The problem for these maneuvers was defense of the airfields [para one] against attack. Participating were AA batteries and automatic guns from artillery units stationed near the airfields. In some regions, mounted troops and light tanks participated.
- 3. Special headquarters were set up for the maneuvers.
- 4. During the maneuvers, many munitions dumps were noted. These were carefully camouflaged and still remain so. Apparently they were not used at all during the maneuvers and are there for other purposes. These dumps are placed along the railroad line and are usually near the larger central stations, near the airfields mentioned in paragraph one.
- 5. In early Nov 1953, maneuvers began in the coastal sector between Beregovaia and Voulansk. The problem set for these maneuvers was defense against an attack from the sea. Coast guards, both ashore and afloat, were mobilized during the maneuvers, which lasted for several weeks and apparently well into Dec 1953. The air force cooperated. General staff observers expressed satisfaction.

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